IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflecting all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus having a positioning mechanism for adjusting a conveying position of a sheet which is conveyed when the sheet is conveyed, the positioning mechanism comprising;

a plurality of reference surfaces formed by a stepwise manner in accordance with a size of a sheet for adjusting a position of the sheet in a direction perpendicular to a sheet-conveying direction,

obliquely conveying means for obliquely conveying the sheet and for conveying the sheet while pushing a side end of the sheet against one of the reference surfaces in accordance with the size of the sheet,

a curved guide surface provided with a upstream side of the reference surfaces for guiding the sheet, and

a support member projecting from the curved guide surface for bringing up an end of the sheet opposite from the reference surfaces.

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the support member is provided on the opposite side from the ~~reference member~~ plurality of reference surfaces with respect to a center in a direction perpendicular to a sheet conveying direction, and the support member comprises a rib extending in the sheet-conveying direction.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the support member is provided on the opposite side from the ~~reference member~~ plurality of reference surfaces with respect to a center in a direction perpendicular to a sheet conveying direction, and the support member comprises a plurality of ribs [[have]] having different heights in accordance with the heights of the reference surfaces in a widthwise direction of the sheet.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sheet support surface extending from a lower end of the reference surfaces, and wherein the support member brings up the end of the sheet at substantially the same height as that of [[a]] said sheet support surface ~~extending from a lower end of the reference surface~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

the support member is provided in a direction away from the ~~reference member~~ plurality of reference surfaces with respect to the center in the widthwise direction of the sheet which is conveyed.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the support member has an inclined surface whose height is increased as the inclined surface is separated from the ~~reference member~~ plurality of reference surfaces.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus having a positioning mechanism provided on a sheet conveying passage, the positioning mechanism comprising;

a reference member provided on one end of the conveying passage in a perpendicular direction to a sheet-conveying direction,

a plurality of reference surfaces which are provided on the reference member in a stepwise manner in accordance with sizes of sheets, and which define a conveying-reference of the sheet,

an obliquely conveying roller which is obliquely disposed on the conveying passage,

a curved guide surface provided with an upstream side of the reference surfaces, and

a rib which is provided on the curved guide surface and located on the opposite side from the reference surfaces with respect to a center in a direction perpendicular to a sheet conveying direction of the sheet.

8. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising;

an image forming section, and

the sheet conveying apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7,

wherein the image forming section forms an image on a sheet conveyed by the sheet conveying apparatus.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

in order to form images on both surfaces of a sheet, the sheet conveying apparatus is disposed in a re-feeding passage for again feeding the sheet whose first surface is formed with an image by the image forming section to the image forming section.

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus which again feeds a sheet whose first surface is formed with an image by an image forming section to the image forming section for forming an image on a second surface of the sheet which is opposite side from the first surface through a re-feeding passage, the sheet conveying apparatus comprising;

a reference member provided on one end of the re-feeding passage in a perpendicular direction to a sheet-conveying direction,

a plurality of reference surfaces which are provided on the reference member in a stepwise manner in accordance with sizes of sheets, and which define a conveying-reference of the sheet,

an obliquely conveying roller which is obliquely disposed on the re-feeding passage,

a curved guide surface provided with an upstream side of the reference member, and

at least one rib which is provided at a position corresponding to one side end of a sheet whose other side end is supported by a sheet support surface which is substantially horizontally extending from each lower end of the plurality of reference surfaces, and which has substantially the same height as that of the sheet support surface.

11. (Currently Amended) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising ~~wherein~~ a plurality of ribs [[have]] having different heights in accordance with heights of the reference surfaces in a widthwise direction of the sheet.

12. (Original) A sheet conveying apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

the rib has an inclined surface whose height is increased as the inclined surface is separated from the reference member.

13. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising;

an image forming section, and

the sheet conveying apparatus according to any one of claims 10 to 13,

wherein the image forming section forms an image on a sheet conveyed by the sheet conveying apparatus.